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**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. An article, comprising:  
an instruction stored on a storage medium, the instruction including an opcode and an operand, the operand being compressed prior to being stored in the instruction on the storage medium.
2. The article according to claim 1, wherein the operand includes an immediate operand.
3. The article according to claim 1, further comprising control information providing information on the compressed operand.
4. The article according to claim 1, wherein the opcode is a fixed number of bits.
5. The article according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of program instructions stored on the storage medium, wherein the plurality of program instructions including a current instruction having a first operand, a previous instruction having a second operand, and a next instruction having a third operand.
6. The article according to claim 5, wherein an operand of the current instruction is stored in one of the first operand, the second operand and the third operand.
7. The article according to claim 5, wherein an operand of the current instruction is stored in at least two of the first operand, the second operand and the third operand.
8. The article according to claim 1, wherein the operand is a first number of bits and the operand is a second number of bits, and wherein the first number of bits is less than the second number of bits.
9. The article according to claim 8, wherein the first number of bits is one half the second number of bits.

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10. The article according to claim 1, wherein the instruction includes a fixed number of bits.
11. A method for converting a program instruction from a first format including a first operand field to a second instruction format including a second operand field, comprising:
  - compressing an operand of the program instruction stored in the first operand field;
  - and
  - storing the compressed operand in the second operand field.
12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the compression of the operand results in a reduction of a number of bits for storing the operand from a first number of fixed bits to a second number of fixed bits, wherein the second number of fixed bits is less than the first number of fixed bits.
13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the second instruction format includes a control field for storing data on a compression scheme for compressing the operand.
14. A method for storing an operand in at least one of a plurality of program instructions, comprising:
  - allocating a first fixed number of bits in each of the plurality of program instructions for storing the operand;
  - compressing the operand; and
  - storing the compressed operand in the first fixed number of bits in at least one of the plurality of program instructions.
15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
  - allocating a second number of bits in each of the plurality of program instructions for storing a control function; and
  - storing the control function in the second number of bits in the at least one of the plurality of program instructions where the operand is stored, wherein the control function

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indicates a compression scheme for compressing the operand.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of program instructions includes a current instruction and a previous instruction, and further includes:
  - splitting the operand into a first portion and a second portion;
  - storing one of the first portion and the second portion in the first fixed number of bits of the previous instruction; and
  - storing the other one of the first portion and the second portion in the first fixed number of bits of the current instruction.
17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of program instructions includes a current instruction and a next instruction, and further includes:
  - splitting the operand into a first portion and a second portion;
  - storing one of the first portion and the second portion in the first fixed number of bits of the current instruction; and
  - storing the other one of the first portion and the second portion of the operand in the first fixed number of bits of the next instruction.
18. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
  - selecting a previous instruction for the at least one of the plurality of program instructions if the first fixed number of bits of the previous instruction is available;
  - selecting a current instruction for the at least one of the plurality of program instructions if the first fixed number of bits of the previous instruction is unavailable; and
  - selecting a next instruction for the at least one of the plurality of program instructions if the first fixed number of bits of the previous instruction is unavailable and the first fixed number of bits of the current instruction is unavailable.
19. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
  - selecting a previous instruction for the at least one of the plurality of program instructions if the first fixed number of bits contain a previously stored bit pattern that is

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identical to a bit pattern of the operand.

20. The method according to claim 18, further comprising:  
inserting a new instruction if the first fixed number of bits of each of the previous instruction, the current instruction and the next instruction is unavailable.
21. An article comprising:  
a set of instructions residing on a storage medium, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to implement a method for converting a program instruction from a first format including a first operand field to a second instruction format including a second operand field, the method comprising compressing an operand of the program instruction stored in the first operand field; and storing the compressed operand in the second operand field.